

Rutherford B. Hayes (1822-1893), James A. Garfield (1831-1881), and Chester A. Arthur (1829-1886)

Rutherford B. Hayes almost did not become president. He lost the vote of the electors (the representatives who elect the president) to Democratic candidate Samuel J. Tilden. However, the Republican Party challenged the voting results in three Southern states, as well as Oregon. The decision might have resulted in a deadlock if it had gone to Congress, which was made up of a Democratic House and a Republican Senate, but the Republicans and Democrats struck a deal. The questionable votes would go to Hayes, making him president, but he would have to pull the army troops out of the South and end Reconstruction. That is how Hayes became president. In the South, white Democrats took control and received little interference from the federal government for a long time.

Hayes entered the presidency with a solid reputation. He had been a Civil War general and governor of Ohio. Hayes and his wife, nicknamed, "Lemonade Lucy" because she banned alcohol in the White House, were religious and honest. Hayes made every effort to live by his motto: "He serves his party best who serves his country best."

Like Hayes, James A. Garfield was a Republican from Ohio and an officer in the Civil War. He served seventeen years in Congress before he was elected president. Garfield was the first president to be fluent in Spanish. His vice president, Chester Arthur, was from a Republican group called the "Stalwarts." Garfield had been president for less than seven months when he was assassinated. A mentally disturbed man named Charles J. Guiteau, who cried, "I am a Stalwart; now Arthur is president!" Although it was later shown that Guiteau was not acting as part of a conspiracy for the Stalwarts, Chester Arthur entered the presidency with a cloud over his head. Some people thought the Stalwarts would stop at nothing to get what they wanted.

Arthur was opposed to reform, but he did back a new civil service law, changing the way people got federal



Rutherford B. Hayes
19th President
Party: Republican
Term: 1877-1881



James A. Garfield
20th President
Party: Republican
Term: 1881-1881



Chester A. Arthur
21st President
Party: Republican
Term: 1881-1885

government jobs. He also improved the navy and the postal system. He had such a large wardrobe—including eighty pairs of pants!—that people called him “Elegant Arthur.”

Read the sentences about Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, and Chester A. Arthur. Then complete the sentences by filling in each blank. Use the word list if you need help.

- ★ The U.S. _____ system was improved by Arthur.
- ★ Hayes was a _____ in Ohio.
- ★ Garfield served seventeen years in _____ before he was elected president.
- ★ Garfield was fluent in _____.
- ★ Arthur improved this fighting force: the _____.
- ★ Arthur helped reform _____ jobs.
- ★ Garfield was killed in the seventh _____ of his presidency.
- ★ _____ are the representatives who elect the president.
- ★ The civil _____ is the system of government jobs.
- ★ Arthur had eighty pairs of _____.